



World Society for the Protection of Animals

April 9, 2001

Donna Wieting
Chief Marine Mammal Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226

Dear Ms. Wieting,

I am writing you as a wildlife consultant for The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), an organization that serves as an umbrella for a network of more than 4000 humane societies and 5.2 million supporters worldwide.

WSPA is deeply concerned with the Navy's plan to flood hundreds of thousands of square miles of the world's oceans with intense Low Frequency Active sonar system, or LFA. We are alarmed by the fact that The National Marine Fisheries Service is now proposing to issue a permit that would allow the Navy to proceed with LFA deployment and, in the process, to harass, injure, and even kill marine mammals.

The Navy's high-powered Low Frequency Active sonar system would operate at noise levels billions of times more intense than those known to disturb the migration and communication behavior of large whales. However, the Navy has not satisfactorily addressed the long-term effects of the LFA system on whales, dolphins, porpoises, sea turtles, and a host of other marine animals. Nor has it adequately examined the connection between active sonar and mass strandings of whales and other marine life.

WSPA hereby urges you to not grant the Navy a permit to deploy LFA. Please do not authorize acoustic destruction of our oceans and its inhabitant.

We are looking forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ric O'Barry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ric' and last name 'O'Barry' clearly distinguishable.

Richard O'Barry
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